



State's lawmakers pleased with progress

By FAITH BREMER

Gannett News Service



ALLARD



CAMPBELL



MUSGRAVE

WASHINGTON — Fort Collins' congressional delegation couldn't be more pleased with the progress of the three-week-old war against Saddam Hussein and predicted a quick end to the fighting in Iraq.

"Our men and women (in uniform) are doing a fabulous job," said Republican Sen. Wayne Allard. "Members of the Senate, almost to a person, couldn't be prouder of them."

"You'll probably see another seven days or so, maybe less, of organized resistance and after that guerrilla activity," said Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, also a Republican. "We're well on our way toward the initial stages of rebuilding."

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Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo.

Despite the encouraging reports of U.S. forces becoming a presence in downtown Baghdad, Monday was a sad day for Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, a Republican who represents Fort Collins and eastern Colorado. That day she spoke with the mother of Sgt. 1st Class Randall S. Rehn, 36, of Longmont, who was killed April 3 in fighting near Saddam International Airport. Rehn left behind a wife and a 7-month-old daughter in Okla-

lahoma. Musgrave, whose own

son, John, is stationed in the Mediterranean with the Navy, said she couldn't help but cry.

"In every war that our nation has been involved in, there have been sacrifices like this," Musgrave said when asked whether the war was worth this young man's life. "The value of an individual's life is immeasurable."

"The decision was made to go to war. This young man had enlisted and chose that. It's so sad when someone gives their life. That's

what happens with war. God willing, we won't have more (deaths), and God willing, it will end soon."

Support for the war among their constituents has been running high, lawmakers said.

Two weeks ago, about 125 people attended a joint open house held by Allard and Musgrave in Loveland. Only about a dozen attendees did not support the war, Musgrave said.

"We do hear from people on a regular basis who are opposed but we know, by far, the majority are supportive of the president's action," she said.

Both senators agreed it will be a challenge for the United States to mend its relationship with alienated and outraged Muslims and

Arabs.

Campbell and Allard blame anti-American sentiment in the Arab world on biased news reporting in the Middle East and dictatorial governments.

"We've got to do a better job," Campbell said. "We have to put more resources into Voice of America and Radio Free Europe to convince people what we're doing is right so we're seen as liberators and not as occupiers."

"The dictators maintain their power in those Arab countries by finding somebody to demonize and right now, we're it," Allard said. "They control the press and as you saw from the Iraqi (minister of information), they have no regard for the truth."